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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 3, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 3, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

ZAMAN: Ministry of Interior reportedly issued a "top secret" circular that cautioned governors' offices, university

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administrations and security directorates against terrorist organizations' attempts to stir up ideological conflicts among people, especially through exploiting "Turkish-Kurdish and Alawi-Sunni" differences.

ZAMAN / CUMHURIYET: Zaman cites an article that the French daily Le Monde published. According to the article, the PKK fears that jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan started cooperating with the "deeper state" in Turkey. Cumhuriyet daily further cites that Nizamettin Tas, a senior leader of the PKK, who severed his ties with the organization, allegedly met with CIA officials in 2003 about disarmament of the PKK. Le Monde drew attention to the U.S.'s newly established ties with a group that dissociated itself from the PKK.

SABAH: A soldier was wounded when alleged PKK terrorists carried out an attack with rockets and hand grenades at the Jandarma Command in Van's Muradiye district.

SABAH / HURRIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: An 80-person group chanting slogans and demonstrating in support of Abdullah Ocalan reportedly clashed with police in Istanbul yesterday and threw Molotov cocktails at the police. During the incident, a 19-year-old person died and two people were wounded.

CUMHURIYET: Osman Baydemir reacted to the Governor's Office decision that postponed a public meeting, which was supposed to be held in Diyarbakir on October 3rd. The meeting was titled "Democratic Solution to the Kurdish Problem, Yes to the EU." According to Baydemir, it was neither the end of the world that the meeting was postponed, nor would it turn into doomsday should the meeting be held.

OZGUR GUNDEM: During the cocktail party of the 4th Middle East Industrial Fair, a speech made by the Diyarbakir Governor Efkani Ala in Turkish was translated into Kurdish. Iraq's Planning and Development Minister Bahram Salih attended the cocktail as well.

CUMHURIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: Members of a "Platform for Non-Governmental Organizations" issued a call for solidarity in Siirt, Mardin and Diyarbakir under its "Hand-in hand for Turkey" project launched to create a civil common cause against the recent developments that attack the solidarity of Turkey.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Three of the seven people detained on charges of killing a police officer and wounding another officer in an attack on a police car in Sanliurfa (see press summary 09/19) have been arrested.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Founding members of DTH will convene on October 4 in Ankara to decide whether the movement will shake hands with Celal Dogan, former Gaziantep mayor, in the path to form a new party. Reportedly, Celal Dogan did not welcome the idea of describing the new party as an "alliance" or "merging of powers." Dogan is reportedly dismissing the idea of a party establishing its roots in ethnic nationalism.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Mecer Kule, the U.S. Consul in Mosul, and an accompanying delegation paid a "surprise" visit to the Maxmur camp of Kurdish refugees from Turkey. The U.S. officials reportedly told the members of the camp that Turkey wanted the refugees to return to Turkey. The members of the camp reportedly said that, for Kurds to return to Turkey, it was essential that the U.S. contribute to the democratic and peaceful resolution of the Kurdish problem.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. ZAMAN: Adana's 3rd Cukurova Industry and Commerce Fair ended.

